

Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

A7 CORP) COMM Docket No. T-00000 4-97-0238
IN THE MATTER OF THE US WEST UMENT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

US WEST'S COMMENTS AND POSITION STATEMENT
OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

REGARDING DCI MASTER
ACT OF 1996

TEST PLAN

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US WEST, by its counsel, respectfully submits its commentation of the Master Test Plan issued by the Arizona Corporation of the Mast

THE DRAFT MASTER TEST PLAN IS COMPREHENSIVE.

The ACC Staff and DCI should be commended for developing a comprehensive test plan appropriately adapted to Arizona. The Master Test Plan contains proposals for a complete and thorough evaluation of the access that U S WEST provides CLECs to its operational support systems ("OSS") for pre-order, order, provisioning, maintenance and repair, and billing. When compared to the standard set forth by the FCC regarding whether a BOC is providing sufficient access to OSS, it is clear that the Master Test Plan covers all elements of the FCC standard.

The Master Test Plan is based upon the testing being directed by the Texas Commission of the access that SBC provides to its OSS. It is entirely appropriate that the Master Test Plan is modeled on the Texas Test. The Texas Test was developed after an extensive collaborative effort between SBC, the Texas Commission, the DOJ and CLECs. By adopting the Texas Test, the parties to this case can avoid the time and expense of repeating that work.

The ACC Staff has made some changes to the Texas Test. Some of the changes are necessary to adapt the test to U S WEST's region. Other changes expand the scope of the test, and, as a result, the Master Test Plan is more comprehensive and rigorous than the Texas Test.

Several changes are necessary to adapt the Texas Test to U S WEST's 14-state region.

The Master Test Plan includes several changes to adapt the Texas Test to U S WEST's 14-state region. In aggregate, those changes make the Master Test Plan more rigorous than the Texas Test.

First, a Pseudo-CLEC is included in the Master Test Plan because no CLEC has built a complete interface to U S WEST's EDI interface. As a result, Section 9.5 of the Master Test Plan includes the additional step of the Pseudo-CLEC "documenting the relative ease or complexity of creating the interface." The Texas Test does not include any analysis of the relative ease or complexity of creating an interface, and, consequently, the Master Test Plan is broader in scope than the Texas Test.

Like the Texas Test, the Master Test Plan focuses on resale, UNE-C, UNE-Loop, UNE-Loop with number portability, and number portability. However, the Master Test Plan adapts the Texas Test to reflect USWEST's product mix. Minor changes were made to reflect USWEST's product mix in Arizona. Those changes are listed in Section 3.4 of the Master Test Plan plan. The changes consist of:

One product, EAS, is not included in the Master Test Plan because it is not available in Arizona.

One product, interim number portability, is not included in the Master Test Plan because there is no demand in Arizona for interim number portability, only for long-term number portability. Long term number portability will be tested.

Resale of DSL and circular hunt are not included in the Master Test Plan. Resale of DSL is not included because the FCC has not yet ruled on the issue of whether ILECs are obligated to resell DSL services, and has just recently asked for comments on the issue. (See FCC Public Notice DA 99-1858, dated September 9, 1999.) Consequently, preorder and order for resale of DSL has not been mechanized and is not included in the Master Test Plan, which is also the case for circular hunt.

The Master Test Plan includes many forms of UNE combinations, but not as many as the

Texas Test (where SBC has been ordered by the Texas Commission to provide an extensive range of combinations for several years). The UNE combinations not included in the Master Test Plan consist mostly of new connects, which are not mandated by the recent Supreme Court Ruling because they involve combining elements not already combined in the network.

DSL-capable loops were omitted from the Master Test Plan because DCI mistakenly believed U S WEST would not have mechanized preorder and order for DSL-capable loops at the time of the testing. U S WEST will have mechanized preorder and order for DSL-capable loops by the fourth quarter of 1999, and that functionality can be added to the Master Test Plan.

B. Some changes constitute additions to the Texas Test.

The Master Test Plan includes several significant additions to the Texas Test. The FCC Staff suggested two of those changes, and DCI added several of those changes on its own.

The Change Management Test (Section 7) and the Performance Measurement Evaluation (Section 8) were not contained in the Texas Test Plan. Representatives of the FCC Staff have indicated that evaluation of change management and performance measurements should be included in the test. For that reason, Sections 7 and 8 were included in the Master Test Plan (similar sections are also being incorporated into the Texas Test). The Change Management Test (Section 7) is a "process test to ensure that U S WEST's system and/or process change control methods are appropriately conducted and communicated to CLECs effectively, based on the defined change control procedures." (Master Test Plan, Section 7.1.) The Performance Measurement Evaluation (Section 8) will demonstrate whether U S WEST is properly collecting data and collecting performance measurement results.

The Master Test Plan also includes two sections that are not, and most likely will not be, included in the Texas Test. Section 5, the Retail Parity Evaluation, has no equivalent in neither the Texas Test nor the testing being conducted in New York. Section 7.6, U S WEST-CLEC

Interaction, also has no equivalent in the Texas Test. Pursuant to that section, the Third Party Consultant will evaluate "the interaction between US WEST and its CLEC customers concerning their ongoing utilization of US WEST's OSS."

THERE SHOULD BE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE MASTER TEST PLAN.

Presumably, the ACC Staff chose to base the Master Test Plan on the Texas Test because that test was the result of an extensive collaborative effort and concessions made by all sides, including SBC. The intent of the workshops should not be to cover the same ground covered in Texas. Doing so would defeat the whole purpose of adopting the Texas Test as a baseline.

The workshops should also not be a forum for parties who unsuccessfully advocated positions in Texas to reargue the same positions here – in other words, to have a second bite at the apple. U S WEST has refrained from attempting to limit the scope of the Master Test Plan to less than the scope of the Texas Test. Other parties should refrain from attempting to increase the scope of the Master Test Plan to more than the scope of the Texas Test. The changes should be limited to those necessary to adapt the test to Arizona. The scope of the Texas Test is not where U S WEST would start when negotiating the design of a test, and it should not be the baseline for negotiating a significant increase in scope during the workshops.

U S WEST PROPOSES MINOR CHANGES TO THE MASTER TEST PLAN.

The Master Test Plan is modeled upon the Texas Test, which was itself the product of a considerable collaborative effort between SBC, the Texas Commission, the DOJ and CLECs. DCI has done an admirable job adapting the Texas Test to the US WEST region. DCI has already increased the scope of the Texas Test, and the scope of the Master Test plan should not be further expanded absent a compelling reason. If the intent of these proceedings were to rewrite the Master Test Plan, US WEST would request elimination of those sections not contained in the Texas Test: Section 5, the Retail Parity Evaluation, and Section 7.6, US WEST-CLEC Interaction. In the spirit of cooperation, US WEST will not advocate such major changes to the Master Test Plan and will limit its suggestions to several minor changes.

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U S WEST suggests that the Capacity Test be based on projections for all 14 states, not just Arizona. U S WEST's systems are regionally based, and 14-state projections are appropriate for the test.

The addition of the Performance Measurement Evaluation is a reasonable effort to accommodate requests by the FCC Staff. However, U S WEST has one concern regarding the Performance Measurement Evaluation. U S WEST's concern with the Performance Measurement Evaluation is the use and role of Appendix D. The last paragraph of Section 8.2 sets forth a reasonable procedure for the use of that exhibit. That procedure is that the parties will indicate their views regarding which performance measurements are necessary for the Functionality and Capacity Tests, and standards will be assigned for only those necessary measures. The Test Plan should not be a vehicle for determining standards that U S WEST must meet to pass individual checklist items – those are ultimate issues in the case and should be left for a 271 hearing before the Commission.

Limiting the discussion of standards to OSS is consistent with the direction of th Commission. The Commission ordered that the workshops provide a vehicle "to facilitate a collaborative process to determine OSS standards." (Decision 61837, July 21, 1999.) The Performance Measurement Evaluation should focus on whether U S WEST is collecting proper data and computing correct results; it should not take the place of a hearing on the merits on the checklist items.

U S WEST suggests that the Staff set an orderly procedure for the parties to make proposals regarding the specifics of Appendix D. The procedure should include the ability to present unresolved issues, and to appeal decisions, to the Commission.

U S WEST also has concerns regarding the Retail Parity Evaluation. A parity evaluation has not been part of the testing in either Texas or New York. That being said, US WEST is willing to accept this expansion of the scope of the Texas Test. However, part of the Retail Parity Evaluation is redundant and should be eliminated. To the extent that the test includes

measurements of response times, those efforts are redundant of USWEST's reported performance measurement results, which will be verified in the Performance Measurement Evaluation. In discussions with USWEST, members of the FCC staff expressed the opinion that such redundant efforts are unnecessary. USWEST suggests that the redundant measurement comparison be eliminated, and the Retail Parity Evaluation be limited to an overall comparison of whether the experience of a CLEC customer talking to a CLEC representative using USWEST's OSS interfaces is substantially the same as the experience of a USWEST customer talking to a USWEST representative using the appropriate USWEST internal interface.

IV. THE PROPOSED TEST IS COMPREHENSIVE AND INCLUDES ALL ELEMENTS OF THE FCC's OSS INQUIRY.

In evaluating whether a BOC is providing nondiscriminatory access to its OSS, the FCC has established a two-part inquiry, which actually consists of three elements. In its 271 orders, the FCC has discussed OSS testing only in the context of the second prong of that test, whether the BOC's OSS are operationally ready. In those orders, the FCC stated that, in the absence of actual usage, the BOC may prove operational readiness with independent third-party testing, carrier-to-carrier testing, and internal testing. (See FCC Ameritech Michigan Order, ¶ 138; FCC BellSouth Lousianna II Order, ¶ 86.)

Although the FCC has discussed third-party testing only in the context of whether a BOC's OSS are operationally ready, the Draft Master Test Plan covers all issues considered by the FCC in its evaluation of OSS. It is more complete than necessary, and the scope of the test should not be expanded.

The Master Test Plan evaluates whether U S WEST has deployed the necessary systems and personnel to provide sufficient access to OSS.

The first element of the FCC's test is "whether the BOC has deployed the <u>necessary</u> systems and <u>personnel</u> to provide <u>sufficient access</u> to each of the necessary OSS functions [pre-

ordering, ordering, provisioning, repair an maintenance, and billing]. FCC BellSouth Louisiana II Order, ¶ 85 (emphasis added).

- The FCC described this to mean that the BOC must demonstrate that it has developed sufficient electronic and manual interfaces to allow competing carriers to access all necessary OSS functions, and
- For those functions that the BOC accesses electronically, it has provided <u>equivalent</u> <u>access</u> for competing carriers.
- The FCC has further defined "equivalent access" and "sufficient electronic and manual interfaces" as follows:
- For those OSS functions that are analogous to OSS functions the BOC performs for itself (such as pre-ordering, ordering and provisioning for resale), the BOC must offer access that is equivalent to the access it provides itself. Equivalency is not defined as identical, however, but rather as access to OSS functions such that CLECs are able to perform OSS functions in substantially the same time and manner as the BOC. FCC BellSouth Louisiana II Order, ¶87.
- The FCC has specifically recognized that the ordering and provisioning of unbundled network elements have no retail analogue. For those functions with no retail analogue (such as ordering and provisioning of UNEs), the BOC must establish that its interfaces provide efficient CLECs a meaningful opportunity to compete.

 FCC BellSouth Louisiana II Order, ¶ 87 (emphasis added).

The Master Test Plan includes evaluations of whether U S WEST is providing sufficient access to OSS. The Functionality Test (Section 4) will test whether U S WEST has implemented sufficient interfaces and whether US WEST's OSS work for each listed order type, thus providing an efficient competitor a meaningful opportunity to compete. Similarly, the Retail Parity Evaluation (Section 5) will provide a direct evaluation of whether U S WEST provides to CLECs access to OSS in substantially the same time and manner as it provides access to itself.

The Master Test Plan includes an evaluation of whether US WEST is adequately assisting CLECs to implement and use OSS functions.

The second element of the FCC test is "whether the BOC is <u>adequately assisting</u> competing carriers to understand how to <u>implement and use all of the OSS functions</u> available to them." FCC BellSouth Louisiana II Order, ¶ 85 (emphasis added). (The FCC considers this element to be part of the first prong of its two-prong test.)

The FCC described this to mean that the BOC must demonstrate that it has <u>provided</u> technical specifications to enable competing carriers to design or modify their computer systems. FCC Ameritech Michigan Order, ¶ 137 (emphasis added).

The Master Test Plan provides a direct evaluation of the assistance U S WEST provides to CLECs to implement and use OSS functions. Section 7.6 of the Master Test Plan provides exactly that evaluation. Pursuant to that section, the Third Party Consultant will evaluate "the interaction between U S WEST and its CLEC customers concerning their ongoing utilization of U S WEST's OSS." Similarly, Section 9.5 of the Master Test Plan provides that the Pseudo-CLEC will document the relative ease or complexity of building an EDI interface, thus providing a direct evaluation of whether U S WEST has provided technical specifications to enable CLECs to design or modify their computer systems.

The Master Test Plan includes an evaluation of whether US WEST's OSS are operationally ready.

The second prong, and third element, of the FCC test is "whether the OSS functions that the BOC has deployed are <u>operationally ready</u>, as a <u>practical matter</u>." FCC BellSouth Louisiana II Order, ¶ 85 (emphasis added).

The FCC has indicated that under this test the BOC must demonstrate that its OSS are able to <u>handle current and reasonably foreseeable demand</u>. *Ameritech Michigan Order*, ¶ 137 (emphasis added).

The Master Test Plan also includes an evaluation of whether US WEST's OSS are

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operationally ready. The Functionality Test provides an evaluation of the ability of U S WEST's OSS to handle the enumerated order scenarios from preorder to billing. The Capacity Test also provides an evaluation of whether U S WEST's OSS can handle current and reasonable foreseeable demand.

V. THE COMMENTS OF THE INTERVENORS DO NOT SUPPORT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE MASTER TEST PLAN.

Overall, the comments of the Intervenors do not support any wholesale rewriting of the Master Test Plan. Those comments will be completely examined in the workshops, and U S WEST will address the most significant comments here.

The Master Test Plan anticipates and incorporates most comments by the Intervenors.

The Master Test Plan prepared by the Commission Staff and DCI is so complete and comprehensive that it anticipated and incorporated most comments by the Intervenors. For example, AT&T and MCI suggest that the test include an evaluation of the information and assistance that U S WEST provides to CLECs in using OSS functions. The Master Test Plan contains just such an evaluation. Section 7.6, U S WEST-CLEC Interaction, provides that the Third Party Consultant will evaluate "the interaction between U S WEST and its CLEC customers concerning their ongoing utilization of U S WEST's OSS."

Cox suggests that the Functionality Test evaluate unbundled loops, unbundled loops with number portability and stand-alone number portability. The Master Test Plan includes all such products.

AT&T suggests that the testing include an evaluation of whether U S WEST is providing sufficient access to OSS. The Functionality Test (Section 4) will test whether U S WEST has implemented sufficient interfaces and whether US WEST's OSS work for each listed order type, thus providing an efficient competitor a meaningful opportunity to compete. Similarly, the Retail Parity Evaluation (Section 5) will provide a direct evaluation of whether U S WEST provides to CLECs access to OSS in substantially the same time and manner as it provides

access to itself.

Many parties suggest that the testing include preorder and order of DSL-capable loops. As stated above, that functionality will be mechanized in late 1999, and preorder and order of DSL-capable loops can be included in the Master Test Plan.

The Master Test Plan proposes the most reasonable use of a Pseudo-CLEC.

Several Intervenors have commented about the use of the Pseudo-CLEC, and there does not appear to be agreement among the Intervenors about the use of a Pseudo-CLEC. Some Intervenors, such as Cox, have expressed the opinion that a Pseudo-CLEC should not be used. Others, such as MCI, have indicated that a Pseudo-CLEC should be used, and that CLEC-initiated orders should not be included in the test.

In U S WEST's opinion, the Master Test Plan proposes the most efficient and effective use of a Pseudo-CLEC. Because no CLEC has built a complete interface to U S WEST's EDI interface, a Pseudo-CLEC must be used, or the EDI interface will not be tested. However, to the extent possible, CLEC participation is desirable, and U S WEST fully supports the proposal in the Master Test Plan that CLEC volunteers be allowed to participate.

The Master Test Plan should be limited to OSS testing.

Both AT&T and MCI propose that the Master Test Plan be drastically expanded to include non-OSS issues. AT&T proposes that the test include interconnection and collocation. MCI proposes that the test be expanded to include collocation and combining of unbundled network elements. Expanding the Test Plan to include these items will make the testing process unnecessarily long, overly expensive and completely unworkable. It will not be possible, and it is not desirable, to include all issues in a 271 case in the Master Test Plan. The testing already includes more than is necessary, and the testing should be limited to OSS issues.

AT&T's commercial testing proposal is unnecessary and would result in an unlawful expansion of the checklist.

Even though the Master Test Plan will result in a complete evaluation of all elements of

the FCC's OSS test, AT&T is not satisfied. AT&T proposes that following the completion of the third-party test, US WEST's OSS be subjected to what AT&T calls "commercial testing." AT&T does not define what it means by "commercial testing," but US WEST fears that what AT&T means is that US WEST would not be entitled to 271 relief until a certain commercial volume of orders is received in Arizona.

Such a proposal is unnecessary and would defeat the whole purpose of the third-party test. The Master Test Plan will evaluate all elements of the FCC's OSS test, and further testing is unnecessary. Indeed, the FCC has specifically stated that commercial testing is not necessary for 271 relief. The FCC has stated that "the Commission will consider carrier-to-carrier testing, independent third-party testing, and internal testing, in the absence of commercial usage, to demonstrate commercial readiness." FCC BellSouth Louisiana II Order, ¶ 86.

More importantly, such a proposal would result in an unlawful expansion of the checklist. When it enacted Section 271, Congress specifically rejected any market share loss or volume of orders test. Recognizing this, the FCC has indicated that Section 271 does not include any market share loss test, and that the number of orders from competitors must be merely more than a *de minimis* number. FCC Ameritech Michigan Order, ¶ 76-78. In addition, the FCC rejected the IXCs' suggestion that, to obtain 271 relief, a BOC must be "actually furnishing" checklist items. FCC Ameritech Michigan Order, ¶ 109-110.

Now, AT&T is attempting to re-impose such a requirement through OSS testing. U S WEST cannot be denied 271 relief because it is not "actually furnishing" a certain level of orders through its OSS. Such a requirement, even if it is disguised as a "commercial usage test," would be contrary to the expressed intention of Congress and the FCC.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Commission Staff and DCI should be commended for developing a comprehensive and complete test plan. The Master Test Plan does not need any significant changes, and the parties should move as quickly as possible to begin the testing process.

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